

a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried by acclamation, and then after a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. T. Jackson, had been accorded the ladies and gentlemen who had taken an active part in the concert, the proceedings were brought to a close by the company joining in singing.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST A CHINESE CONSTABLE.

CORONER'S INQUIRY.

On Saturday Mr. H. E. Woodhouse, Coroner, held an inquest on the body of Lo Yau Sing, hawker, 18 years of age.

Mr. Reece, solicitor, appeared for the relatives of the deceased.

Chan Sin, widow, said—The deceased was my son. On the 22nd July, at 7.30 a.m. I was at the entrance to the Central Market, when I saw the deceased take some vegetables to a purchaser who was in the street. He then turned round and came back to me. I saw him take a small stick from his pocket and strike the deceased on the head with it. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick again. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick a third time. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick a fourth time. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick a fifth time. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick a sixth time. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick a seventh time. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick an eighth time. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick a ninth time. I saw him strike the deceased on the head with the stick a tenth time. 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Lo Yee said—The deceased is my brother. I saw P.C. 204 run after him, catch hold of his glasses, give him a blow with his fist, and also kick him on the left side. The constable then let him go.

Corroborative evidence was given, and the Magistrate adjourned the inquiry. His Worship instructed the Inspector in charge of the case to take each of the witnesses down to the market separately, and tell them to point out the exact place where they alleged the constable struck the deceased.

Mr. Reece, who appeared for the relatives of the deceased, asked permission to go to the place with his interpreter at the same time the witnesses went, and the Magistrate granted permission.

The inquiry will be continued at the Magistrate's-morrow.

JOTTINGS ON JAPAN.

The poetic gentleman who first described Japan as a "land of flowers" must have looked at it through exceedingly rose-coloured spectacles, and had never, probably, been to Covent Garden market, and far less to Nice or Cannes. The truth is that at one particular time of the year—about April—the cherry trees, which are cultivated for mere purposes of adornment, break out into blossom for a week or so, and give a rather marvellous appearance of splendour to many of the public and private gardens. And upon this ephemeral show of floral beauty is built up the reputation of Japan as the garden of the East. As for flowers, properly so called, the country is neither better nor worse off than any other place in a similar latitude. There are a good many nursery gardens, where you can get common roses at a reasonable price; but they are nearly always devoid of smell. The cultivation of outdoor flowers seems to be almost entirely neglected, and the public gardens, at all times of the year when the blossoms are not present, are most dreary and uninteresting, with which Hyde Park is a paradise. The flowering Hawthorns and blackthorns, the red-flowered and white-flowered, and all the legion of well-known annuals which enliven the cottages and villas in England, are conspicuous by their absence in Japan. A whole room full of flowers will not smell as sweet as a single rose from a Surrey cottage, or from a hedge-row in Devonshire. Moreover, the practical mind revolts from the idea of a fruit tree which produces no fruit. And this is the case with the whole of the botanical cherry trees in Japan. After the blossom has fallen a fruit begins to form. But after a few days it ceases to grow, and then gradually shrivels up, and when the sanguine owner thinks that "surely its greatness is ripening," withers away into mere stone and skin, and falls miserably to the ground. I don't know whether this fruit is typical of Japanese progress and Japanese new aspirations. Unkind people here, I believe, have been heard to say so. And the collapse of the ambitious views respecting Manchuria may be thought to impart a shadow of probability to the idea.

Kobe is the most habitable place in all Japan. Business and pleasure are combined in just proportions; and the whole community (of colonists that is) rubs along together with a genial sociability that puts to shame, not only poor old Bangkok, but many another Eastern town. Practical joking is carried here to the level of a fine art, and amongst a hundred other examples which might be given, it may be enough to mention the fantastic device of sending round circulars, containing mischievous but veiled allusions to small scandals or "faux pas." The reader will ask, "Why not take proceedings for libel?" Because Kobe juries are not like Bangkok ones; and the sufferer would make his case doubly bad by calling public attention, from all parts of Japan, to his little grievances. No! the settler in Japan has something else to do than to squabble with his neighbours, and would soon be rebuffed if he could not give and take a joke, even of a very schoolboy kind. Probably a great deal of the good humor which pervades the place is due to the cult of muscular Christianity which is still paramount. The special form of it which is most popular and prevalent is boasting. Under the captaincy of an old "light blue" seaman the Boat Club, started twenty-three years ago, is now the most flourishing of such institutions in the East. Racing strange as it is to see on the shores of the Pacific, cannot be regarded as boats carried down to the landing stage by the hands of young fellows, who have evidently "gone into training" in orthodox style for the forthcoming Regatta or the next "Interport" race with Yokohama. Quail also to see the upper storey of the boat-house crammed with ladies and to hear the band playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes," whilst Brown and Jones are adjusting their field glasses to the distant starting post, or comparing notes as to the number of strokes rowed to the minute; and Robinson is looking forward with unconcealed glee to the unlimited long drinks which await him after the final heat. Yokohama and Kobe are very old antagonists, and have kept up their four-or-five contest at uncertain intervals with various success. From all appearances the Yokohama Club will, this year, have to play second fiddle to its more enthusiastic rival.

While the subject of rowing, it may be mentioned that it is already one of the pastime amusements of the common people. At Osaka, for instance, which is a sort of commercial capital, inhabited by Japanese with only the smallest sprinkling of Europeans, the river which runs by it through the town is almost crowded with row boats. The young Japs, in shirt sleeves often—so as to be quite in European fashion—sit about in light boats, out-rigger or otherwise, sculling and rowing in very decent "form," and only needing some good coaching to make a very fair show. The modern Japanese does not, as far as I can learn, "go in" for bodily exercise, such as cricket, football, or lawn tennis. But that he bows I know from secular demonstration. And I have little

doubt that as soon as some grandee, such as a general or an admiral, has brought the thing into fashion, there will be Regattas and rowing matches in front of the towers of the Empire, which will involve the adoption of a better costume than shirt sleeves, and may even induce the more active of the population to take up athletic sports, which would make men of a great many little wily archers.—*Slam, Free Press Co.*

IS THERE A FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE?

We have here another corroboration of the concert existing between the two Governments, and the accord existing between the two countries. The ceremony at the Elisee and the meeting of the Russian and French ships in Danish waters denote a deliberate intention, the significance of which is self-evident, and mark with increased emphasis the import of this double manifestation.—*Le Journal des Debats.*

Every word uttered at the Elisee yesterday should be carefully weighed. The representative of Nicholas II. said absolutely nothing that could be construed into an indication of the existence of the most modest alliance. M. de Mohrenheim administered to the "venerable" of the State "something like an icy douche. M. Ribot spoke of an alliance; the Russian talks of "relations;" and to give that expression its real meaning, he refers to the generous character and the pacific spirit of the great French nation. William II. has reason to be pleased with his Russian brother.—*Le Journal des Debats.*

The meeting of the French and Russian ships is no fortuitous accident, and its significance is enhanced by the words uttered by M. Hanotaux at the Palais Bourbon, and the presentation of the Order of St. Andrew to the President. This is so prominent a feature that it obviously dwarfs the artificial glamour of the International manifestation to which William II. has invited Europe. Germany applies the decorative framework, but the alliance between France and Russia forms the centre of the picture on which the attention of the world is riveted. What the world will see at Kiel will not be the same reduced to discipline under the leadership of Prussia as William II. had somewhat foolishly dreamed, but Europe divided into two camps, very clearly marked out, if not threatening; and that is what the German Emperor did not foresee. Numerically the French and Russian forces are fewer than those of the States involved in the Triple Alliance, but can anyone fail to see that that inferiority is voluntary? Is there any statesman who can fail to detect, behind the small squadron of the *Invincible*, the two millions of Frenchmen and the three millions of Russians whom a war would mobilise? There, and nowhere else, lies the significance of the fleet at Kiel. All the rest is leather and prunella. As to the agitators and leaders of the mob they may be left out of the reckoning; let us leave them to their infatuation, and direct our gaze towards the future, brimful of promise, or, in other words, of recuperation.—*Figaro.*

Nothing can equal the amazing idea of the *Times* in blaming the bad taste of a demonstration of Franco-Russian friendship on the occasion of the Kiel festivities. In order to please the Prussian House of Lords, France and Russia ought, apparently, to have gone to Kiel with the humility of the poor relations admitted by favour at ceremonial banquets to the lower end of the table. The bad taste of a demonstration designed only to unfurl the united flag of the dual alliance side by side with the flag of the Triple Alliance—such an expression comes from the heart and throws a flood of light on the sentiments of an entire political school in England. We have assuredly much to regret in refusing friendly and kindly overtures, who, it would seem, would like to see France in quarantine, but it really cannot be expected that, to please some particular publicist, our country should deny itself the pleasure of showing assembled Europe that the era of isolation is over and the era of Continental balance of power re-opened. What is most fortunate is that, after all the Emperor Nicholas and France, by thus publicly in the waters of Kiel sealing their accord, have discovered the surest way of labouring the consolidation of peace. This is by no means the smallest of the Franco-Russian alliance to the respect and goodwill of the sincere friends of European concord and of the tranquillity of the world.—*Le Temps.*

The two Powers which have been co-operating lately with her in the Far East have not thought it necessary to be represented at the celebration of this German festival in any great force, as they send only an unofficial and a cruiser apiece to take part in the regatta. They seem determined, however, to emphasise that the relations between them, at least, are so close in European as in Asiatic waters. By arrangement of the French ships left in with the Russian ships off the coast of Denmark, and they made their entry into Kiel harbour together. It might, perhaps, have been in better taste to have deferred such a proof of the cordiality of friendly relations between France and Russia to some other occasion. The incident, however, will probably gratify the French and Russian publicists, and tend to obliterate from their memories any unpleasant impressions caused by the cautious language of Baron Mohrenheim yesterday, as he handed the insignia of the Russian Order of St. Andrew to the President of the Republic. Great stress has been laid not unnaturally on the marked use of the word "alliance" in regard to the two Powers by M. Hanotaux and M. Ribot in the Chamber. No such word, it will be observed, occurs in the letter delivered by the Ambassador on behalf of the Imperial master. Baron Mohrenheim certifies, it is true, to the "cordiality of the relations so happily established between our two countries," but the very neutral character of this phrase only serves to point the apparent contrast between the kind of friendship professed by France and the kind of friendship accepted by Russia.—*Times.*

CHIPPINGS FROM HOME PAPERS.

LONDON, June 28th.

Lord Salisbury's Cabinet is "a great Cabinet," for it comprises the most important men of the two United Oppositions. Lord Salisbury takes the Premiership for the third time, and resumes the burden of Foreign Affairs, despite the precarious state of his health. This means the resumption of a more vigorous foreign policy, and the end of E. Land's complacency to Russia and France. The expectations that are built on Salisbury's conduct of Foreign Affairs are evident from the Berlin telegram to Lord Salisbury's organ, the *Standard*, to the effect that immediately after his assumption of office, intimate relations are to be established between Germany, England, and Japan. This statement of the *Standard* deserves all the more attention as it coincides in a very noteworthy manner with the communications of our St. Petersburg correspondent.—*Voss Zeitung.*

The Tory Party is absorbed in an Imperial

questions simply and solely by considerations of British policy—these will be the watchwords of the Ministry now in course of formation, the leading members of which have already, by words and deed, given us ample opportunities of learning their views on the leading principles of British Imperial policy.—*Nordde. Zeitung.*

QUARANTINE.

The absolute quarantine regulations have just received a good illustration at Gibraltar. The P. and O. steamer *Chauran* put in the other day flying the yellow quarantine flag, there being a lady passenger down with infectious disease of some kind. The passengers who were waiting to go on board were compelled to wait till the Port Medical officer had been found and had boarded the ship after which all the boats which had put off were ordered back, each one to take up a health guard, so that no infected person might land from the vessel. Many of the passengers declined to go back to the ship a second time, and those who did go had to say good-bye to their friends at the foot of the gangway ladder, none but passengers being allowed on board. After all these vexatious regulations, will it be believed that the *Chauran* passengers were allowed to come straight off the ship to their hotels and other destinations on shore; while one passenger, who had cabin luggage with him, although his heavy baggage down in the hold, where it was out of possible risk of infection, was sent to a hulk in the bay to be fumigated! Did any one ever hear of such fatuous idiosyncrasy?—*Truth.*

SHIPPING.

Messrs. Glucke & Hennings, of Hambury, announce that they have opened branch offices at Brunsbüttel and Holtenau, the entrances of the North Sea Canal, for the clearance of vessels passing through the Canal.

According to the annual statement to the Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom for last year, 388,847 vessels, of 94,387,371 tons, entered, and 354,891 vessels, of 88,497,509 tons, cleared, a total of 743,738 vessels, of 182,884,880 tons, and 346,737 vessels, of 82,166,381 tons, in 1893, and 370,557 vessels, of 87,087,070 tons, and 343,510 vessels, of 81,876,330 tons in 1894. H.M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Sturgeon*, built and equipped by the Naval Armaments Company, Barrow-in-Furness, proceeded to the measured mile at Skeltonville on Saturday for the purpose of undergoing her official three hours' speed trials. These proved most satisfactory. The average of six runs on the mile was 27.6 knots, and the mean speed attained on the three hours' steaming 27.3 knots per hour. The *Sturgeon* is 106 ft long by 19 ft 6 in beam, and 250 tons displacement. Her engines are of the usual triple-expansion type, and she is fitted with Mr. Bloch's patent boilers, which are compact, and arranged so that all tubes can be easily renewed. On Monday the *Sturgeon* went through her steering trial satisfactorily.

If a captain sets a course for entering narrow waters by a compass which has on that course a striding error of 30 deg., it is not surprising that a stranding should result. This is what happened to the *Dunkeld*, causing her total loss. The Court found that the vessel was virtually navigated by the steering compass, the deviation of which was ascertained by observations and by comparison with a "patent" compass. It is well known to those who make a special study of ship's magnetism, but not so well known by seamen, indeed hardly known by them at all, that it does not follow that because the course is a vessel is altered by two points, that there is a corresponding alteration of two points in the azimuth of the ship's head, and *vice versa*. Compasses having large deviations always exhibit this discrepancy. In such compasses, too, there is such an unequal distribution of directive force that on some courses the card is sluggish and will hardly move, while in others it flies around like a person at a May meeting. I cannot understand a man risking safety, employment, and reputation on a compass such as that used in navigating the *Dunkeld*, except that as supposition that those responsible either did not know or failed to appreciate the risk they incurred. The *Dunkeld* had been fitted with compasses! Had she been fitted with a properly placed and carefully adjusted standard compass and a good steering compass, proper courses could have been steered. It is a very prevalent belief that there is an advantage in having a number of compasses. This is not so. The great secret of good courses lies in the position of the compass, and in periodical and careful adjustment. Compass adjustment need not cause any detention, as was formerly the case. With a suitable "defector" a vessel can be more expeditiously and more accurately steered while under way than when at a buoy.—*Fairplay.*

CONTINENTAL ITEMS.

HOLLAND.—The report of the Committee of the Second Chamber upon the Bill regulating the introduction of direct government in Lombok is generally satisfactory. Many members, however, made criticisms, and the levy of high import and export duties, which has been introduced, is inadvisable. The existing general tariff should be introduced there at once. It was also asked that the import of opium should be entirely prohibited in Lombok.

The plan for the construction of the railway from Tarib with Sourabaya and Kallmas met with approval, although the expenditure was considered very heavy, but the expectation was expressed that the return would warrant it. The railway from Fort de Koek to Pakokambo was also approved of, it being considered of great importance.

According to the annual report of the Netherlands Trading Company the profit in 1894 was £2,430,000, of which the office at Batavia only contributed £1,447,000, and Surinam only £1,316,000. Further £1,000,000 was earned on interest account, £1,008,000 on commission account, and £1,408,000 on shares and bonds in agricultural undertakings. The expenditure amounted to £1,870,000, of which the office at Batavia only contributed £1,447,000, and Surinam only £1,316,000. Further £1,000,000 was earned on interest account, £1,008,000 on commission account, and £1,408,000 on shares and bonds in agricultural undertakings. The expenditure amounted to £1,870,000, of which the office at Batavia only contributed £1,447,000, and Surinam only £1,316,000. Further £1,000,000 was earned on interest account, £1,008,000 on commission account, and £1,408,000 on shares and bonds in agricultural undertakings. 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